

REMARKS

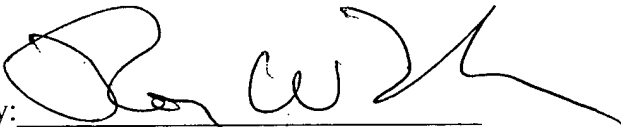
In a final office action dated April 14, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, 20, 22, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Brais et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,995,936) in view of *Bregler* (U.S. Patent 5,880,788); rejected claims 4, 6, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brais* and *Bregler*, further in view of *Williams* (U.S. Patent 6,308,154); and rejected claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brais* and *Bregler*, further in view of *Englehardt* (U.S. Patent 5,477,511). Claims 21, 23, 25 and 27 were objected to as dependent on rejected base claims, but otherwise indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 11 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 21, 23, 25 and 27, respectively (including the limitations of dependent claims 20, 22, 24 and 26, from which the allowable claims depended). As amended, claims 1, 5, 9 and 11 are therefore allowable. Claims 20-27 have accordingly been cancelled as superfluous. Each of the remaining claims is dependent on a respective one of the allowable independent claims, and therefore also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims. In addition, the

Examiner is encouraged to contact applicant's attorney by telephone if there are outstanding issues left to be resolved to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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